
The Hidden Areas of the Heart

Romans 12:1

“I Do”

Go back in your memory to your wedding—or the wedding of a close friend. Remember how sincerely those sacred vows were spoken: “in sickness or health, for richer or poorer, until death do us part.” Those words mark one of the defining moments in life. Never again would life be the same. From that moment on, all your time, energy, plans, emotions, dreams and money are to be shared with another because you have promised to give yourself wholly to another person. From that moment on, all secrets, wrong thoughts, and selfish motives become painfully visible to another person.

Not only can a person commit himself to another person, he can also commit himself to the Lord God with the same level of intensity, devotion, transparency and significance.

The Apostle Paul begs these believers to give themselves over to the Lord. It is only because God is so incredibly faithful, merciful and committed to you that you would find yourself willing to give him your life. Like your spouse, he knows you and your innermost being, and what you're really like—but even more.

Reflection

Why does a man give his heart to a woman and commit himself to her for life? It is only because of his deep love for her that has developed through time and meaningful experiences. When others might have given up on him because of his failures, she stood by him determinedly. The Bible calls all men to experience the reality of a meaningful relationship with the Lord and to commit themselves to him for life. Similar to marriage, that specific act of dedication to Jesus Christ is one of the most significant decisions that a true believer will ever make.

Accountability and Application

Amazingly, God has already made that “heart commitment” toward you and proved his loyal love to you by sending his Son to die for you.

- Have you responded to him in like commitment? Have you once and for all given him your whole self?
- Have you stood before him transparent, willing to let him see what you are really like?
- Are you hesitant to let the Lord see the real you?

PRAYER: Lord, I bow my knee and hold my heart up to you. I do not hold back anything anymore from you. I present myself to you as a living sacrifice. I want to be holy. Do what it takes to make me holy, Lord.

Romans 11:33-12:2 (NASB)

³³Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

³⁴For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

³⁵Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

³⁶For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 12

Dedicated Service

¹Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.